

Coturnicops noveboracensis (Yellow Rail)

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Gruiformes (Cranes And Rails)

Family: Rallidae (Coots, Crakes, Gallinules, Moorhens, And Rails)

General comments:

Lacking data on numbers of migrants, no breeding record; to be consistent should this even be SC?

Species Conservation Range Maps for Yellow Rail:

Town Map: [Coturnicops noveboracensis_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Coturnicops noveboracensis_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation: NA

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:

Coturnicops noveboracensis is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

North American Waterbird Conservation Plan:

High Concern

United States Birds of Conservation Concern:

Bird of Conservation Concern in Bird Conservation Regions 14 and/or 30: Yes

High Climate Change Vulnerability:

Vulnerability: 3, Confidence: Medium, Reviewers: 2

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Yellow Rail:

Formation Name Freshwater Marsh

Macrogroup Name **Emergent Marsh**

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Freshwater Marsh **Notes:** Nesting; usually wet and sedgy.

Macrogroup Name **Modified-Managed Marsh**

Habitat System Name: Modified-Managed Marsh **Notes:** Nesting; usually wet and sedgy.

Macrogroup Name **Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh**

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Wet Meadow-Shrub Swamp **Notes:** Nesting; usually wet and sedgy.

Formation Name Intertidal

Macrogroup Name **Intertidal Tidal Marsh (peat-forming)**

Habitat System Name: Acadian Coastal Salt Marsh **Notes:** Nesting and during migration.

Habitat System Name: Coastal Plain Tidal Marsh **Notes:** Nesting and during migration.

Stressors Assigned to Yellow Rail:

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Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Natural Systems Modifications

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Dams and Water Management-Use

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Highly actionable

Notes: Can contribute to loss of nesting/foraging habitat if focus on promoting deep water marsh rather than shallow water marsh, but can also create/improve habitat depending on management regime.

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Other Options

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Lack of knowledge

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Need better understanding of acceptable breeding habitat, site fidelity, and locations of current occupied sites in Maine (if any).

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Storms and Flooding

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Flash flooding and torrential rains can cause nest failure.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Yellow Rail:

None. *Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Actions Associated with the Marsh birds Guild:

Conservation Action **Category:** Survey and Monitoring **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** new
Implement targeted surveys to better understand the distribution and status of this species and to help direct conservation actions to newly documented populations

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action **Category:** Habitat Management **Biological Priority:** high **Type:** new
Work with landowners to maximize hemi-marsh conditions and maintain stable water levels.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Dams and Water Management-Use

Conservation Action **Category:** Species Management **Biological Priority:** moderate **Type:** new
Work with landowners to develop and post signs or other strategies for discouraging recreational users from disturbing nesting birds.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

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Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.